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YUNG-LI CHEMICAL COMPANY'S T'ANG-KU SODAWORKS
AND CHIU-TA SALTWORKS

[Summary: The Yung-li Chemical Company's T'ang-ku Soda-works was converted into a public-private jointly operated firm in June 1952. After the conversion, production of soda ash rose 59 percent and caustic soda 47 percent. The Chiu-ta Salt-works became a public-private jointly operated firm on 1 July 1953. Using January 1953 as the base month, the October 1953 production index for refined salt was 121; calcium chloride, 137; and magnesium carbonate, 373. The plant now employs 643 workers.]

YUNG-LI SODAWORKS INCREASES PRODUCTION -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao, 21 Nov 53

The T'ang-ku Sodaworks of the Yung-li Chemical Company has made advances in production since it became a public-private jointly operated company. The sodaworks has been in existence 36 years, but during that time there was no profitable development of the plant by the capitalists under the Nationalist government.

Rapid recovery and expansion was effected by the people's government after the liberation. By September 1950, the plant's production of soda ash had reached the prewar level, and by the end of June 1952, when the plant became jointly operated, the production rate had risen to five times the rate maintained during the Japanese occupation, and 2 1/2 times the rate maintained during the Nationalist government's reign.

The chemical industry is closely connected with other industries under the national plan. After liberation, the glass, dyeing, paper making, soap, and other industries were also expanding, and the sodaworks' equipment was restricted to some extent. Thus, the requirements of the government and people were not filled. In 1950, the plant owners made their first request that the firm be converted to joint ownership. In June 1952, after a long period of planning and preparation, the government granted their request.

After the conversion, the production of soda ash rose 59 percent and the production of caustic soda rose 47 percent. Expenditure of all types of raw materials per unit of output dropped 13.3 percent. This year's plan specifies a 10 percent drop in costs. Since the conversion, new estimates have been made on machinery performance, and the actual performance has broken all records.

Many new production methods and systems have been put into effect. Formerly, machinery was scattered throughout the plant; now, the pattern, riveting, molding, and iron working shops have been brought together into one machine shop. A few unnecessary sections, such as the work inspection section have been eliminated. Fourteen new sections have been set up, including a technical section and a planning section. Two offices have been set up to coordinate and standardize production procedures. After the conversion, the workers proposed over 3,000 ideas for improving safety throughout the plant. In May 1953, the entire plant stopped production, and for one month performed the first major over-haul of all equipment in the entire history of the plant. Over 400 safety features were installed in the plant.

Workers are receiving many benefits under the joint management. They now work on a 3 1/2-day [sic] basis, giving them more rest. The wage system is now divided into eight grades, and since the conversion there has been a 20

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percent increase in total wages paid. In May 1950, 900 workers' homes were completed. The dining hall can now serve 800-900 workers. Two additional dining halls have been set up where rich food is served to workers whose health is poor. A 50-bed hospital and a rest room have been added to protect the workers' health.

CHIU-TA SALTWORKS CONVERTS TO JOINT OPERATION -- Tientsin, Ta Kung Pao,
21 Nov 53

On 1 July 1953, the Chiu-ta Saltworks became a public-private jointly operated firm. Since its founding 40 years ago, the plant had been very backward, becoming more and more outmoded year after year. Prior to the conversion, the highest annual output of refined salt by this saltworks was 50,000 tons. Sales branches were located in 13 ports. One of the original roles of the Chiu-ta Company was to accumulate money-capital through the manufacture and sale of table salt for the expansion of the Yung-li Company's sodaworks. After the sodaworks prospered, little attention was given to the improvement or expansion of the Chiu-ta Saltworks.

Production was resumed through the aid of the Central People's Government in March 1949 after a 4-month work stoppage during the liberation. The government invested large sums of money in the plant, but it continued to lose money (the debt reaching one billion yuan) until its conversion to joint ownership in July 1953.

In spite of the fact that the plant is old and the machinery requires constant repair, production is rising. Using January 1953 as the base month, the October production index for refined salt was 121; for calcium chloride, 137; magnesium carbonate, 373. Because of the great need for calcium chloride in basic construction, it plans to double its production next year. Since the plant is so old, of course, it will be necessary to rebuild part of it. The plant at present has a total of 643 employees. Last year, after the government invested capital in it, over 90 workers from other factories were transferred to the plant. There were 256 production workers and 296 others prior to the transfer of the above-mentioned personnel.

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